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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USUN N 00936 160421Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------001643 160425Z /72
O 160313Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0067
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 00936

EXDIS

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, XF, US
SUBJECT: WESTERN FIVE CONSULTATION ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: USUN 925

1. UPON INSTRUCTIONS AMBASSADOR LEONARD CONVENED MEETING OF WESTERN FIVE AT USUN ON MARCH 15 AT 6:30 PM TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND ASSESS POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. LEONARD SAID THAT US WOULD APPRECIATE ALLIED VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS AS REGARDS POSSIBLE WAYS TO PERSUADE THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON AS WELL AS ON HOW TO MEET ISRAELI CONCERNS ABOUT PREVENTING FUTURE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ATTACKS ON ISRAEL. ALLIES INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD REPORT
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OUT REQUEST IMMEDIATELY TO THEIR CAPITALS AND SEEK VIEWS WE REQUESTED.

2. AS REGARDS POSSIBLE ACTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, UK DEPUTY PERMREP MURRAY (UK IS CURRENT SC PRESIDENT) REPORTED RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM LEBANESE PERMREP IN WHICH LEBANON RESERVED RIGHT TO CALL FOR SC MEETING. LEBANESE

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PERMREP HAD INDICATED TO BRITISH THAT LEBANESE GOVERN-
MENT NOT ANXIOUS FOR AN SC MEETING IMMEDIATELY,
CLEARLY IMPLYING THAT IT WANTED TO ALLOW TIME FOR IS-
RAEL TO COMPLETE ITS "MOPPING-UP" OPERATION AGAINST
PALESTINIANS. AT SAME TIME, LEBANESE PERMREP MADE CLEAR
THAT GOL DID NOT WANT TO BE PREEMPTED BY ANOTHER ARAB
STATE. LIBYANS APPARENTLY WANT SC MEETING BUT ARAB GROUP
WAS CONSULTING ON THE QUESTION. MURRAY INDI-
CATED THAT BRITISH WOULD GIVE LEBANON OPPORTUNITY TO CALL
FOR MEETING AHEAD OF LIBYA, SHOULD LATTER MAKE REQUEST
TO SC PRESIDENT.

3. WESTERN FIVE AGREED THAT ANY ARAB-SPONSORED SC RESO-
LUTION, BARRING A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE SITUATION ON
THE GROUND, WOULD CONSIST OF A CONDEMNATION OF THE IS-
RAELI INCURSION AND A CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL
OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY. LEONARD THEN
REPORTED ON MAIN POINTS OF THE SECRETARY'S DISCUSSION
WITH FRG FONMIN GENSCHER, INFORMING ALLIES THAT (A) US
WOULD VETO AN UNBALANCED ARAB RESOLUTION (SUCH AS DES-
CRIBED ABOVE) AND WOULD SEEK TO INTRODUCE COUNTER-
RESOLUTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL CALLING ON ISRAEL TO
WITHDRAW AND PROPOSING CONSIDERATION OF SOME SORT OF
"ARRANGEMENTS" TO ASSURE THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL'S NORTH-
ERN BORDER.

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4. LEONARD ALSO INFORMED ALLIES THAT US WAS CONSIDERING
POSSIBILITY OF SOME KIND OF UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN
SOUTHERN LEBANON IN ADDITION TO VERY LIMITED UNTSO OB-
SERVER OPERATION. HE EMPHASISED THAT THIS WAS NOT NEW
IDEA IN USG AND AT THIS STAGE WE WERE SIMPLY SEEKING
VIEWS OF ALLIES ON THIS MATTER. MURRAY SAID THAT HE
DOUBTED SOME MEMBERS OF UNSC WOULD AGREE TO UN PEACE-
KEEPING FORCE TO SEPARATE PALESTINIAN "LIBERATION FORCE"
FROM ISRAEL, NOTING THAT SOUTHERN LEBANON PRESENTED DIF-
FERENT SITUATION FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS WHERE UNDOF WAS BE-
TWEEN TWO ARMIES. ADDRESSING THE MILITARY PROBLEMS, CANA-
DIAN MILREP EXPRESSED VIEW THAT UN FORCE PROBABLY WOULD
BE UNACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL SINCE IT WOULD HINDER ISRAELI
FREEDOM OF ACTION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WITHOUT BEING ABLE
TO FUNCTION AS EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AGAINST TERRORIST IN-
FILTRATION AND SHELLING. HE SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION
BE GIVEN INSTEAD TO CREATION OF DEEP LIMITED-
ARMAMENT ZONE, WHICH COULD BE INSPECTED BY UNTSO ELEMENTS,
COMBINED WITH JOINT SYRIAN/LEBANESE PRESENCE TO
MAINTAIN ORDER ON NORTHERN SIDE OF THE BUFFER ZONE. THIS,
HE THOUGHT, TOGETHER WITH ISRAELI CONTROL OF THE FENCE
ALONG LEBANESE/ISRAELI BORDER AND AUGMENTED SEA PATROLS

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COULD AFFORD CONSIDERABLE PROTECTION AGAINST INFILTRATION
AND SHELLING.
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